

MINUTES

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS INVENTORY & MONITORING NETWORK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Conference Call

8:00-9:00am MT, May 19, 2004

Members Participating

Ruthann Knudson
Bill Supernaugh
Andy Banta
Phyllis Adams
Dan Licht

Also in Attendance

None

Members Absent

None

Call Purpose and Background

The purpose of the call was to give the Board an update on the status of the program.

Licht told the Board that based on what he was hearing from WASO and elsewhere he was not expecting the Northern Great Plains I&M Network to get full funding in FY05, as originally scheduled. However, he had heard from the Water Resources Division (WRD) that the Network was still on track for getting \$81k in WRD funds for monitoring. This money, plus the \$150k the Network is getting for Vital Signs, would result in a FY05 budget of \$231k, before assessments. The projected FY05 cost of all permanent I&M staff would be about \$215k, assuming they all worked full time.

Licht stated that Steve Cinnamon had advised him that the 75:25 split in Licht's duties between I&M Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Biologist would have to end in FY05; however, Gary Vequist had told Licht that he wanted to keep the current arrangement. Licht stated that the current arrangement, although not ideal, does provide some margin of safety with the Network budget. Licht stated that such an arrangement may delay submission of Phase I of the Vital Signs plan, but he thought he could still get it completed ahead of the October 2005 deadline. After some discussion it was decided

that Bill Supernaugh would contact Gary Vequist and recommend that the Network and the Midwest Regional Office maintain the current split through FY05.

Licht said that he had had discussions with Don Striker in regards to sharing Marcia Wilson between the I&M Program and Mount Rushmore NMEM. This was initiated in part because of the funding uncertainty in the I&M Program, the park's need for natural resource support, and Marcia's personal interest. The Board stated their support of such an arrangement and asked Licht to contact Gerard Baker in regards to this.

Licht gave a brief overview of the FY04 budget and some of the current projects. He stated that most of the FY04 funds were spoken for.

Supernaugh asked about the Forest Service building. Licht gave a brief overview of the current status and his recent discussions with Jack Butler of the Forest Service. Licht said he was now optimistic about co-locating with the Forest Service. Licht stated that he thought the ground-breaking was imminent and that the Forest Service hoped to move into the building in the fall of 2005. Licht asked the Board if they had a preference between the Forest Service option and the option of a permanent office at Mount Rushmore NMEM. The Board was in favor of the Forest Service option in part because of the collaborative benefits from working with the Forest Service and because of the neutrality the site. The Board advised Licht to start working with the Forest Service to prepare for such an arrangement. The Board also advised Licht to discuss the office issue with Gerard Baker.

Action Items

Supernaugh will contact Gary Vequist on behalf of the Board and request that Licht be kept at the 75:25 split between I&M Coordinator duties and Regional Wildlife Biologist duties for FY05.

Adams will search for existing agreements between I&M Networks and other agencies for office space.

Licht will contact Jack Butler of the U.S. Forest Service and get the latest on their new building. He will inquire about existing rental agreements between the agency and other agencies in regards to renting office space.

Licht will provide a clean, comprehensible, and easily printed Excel budget to Board members.

Licht will contact Gerard Baker so he is in the loop on the I&M Program, the office issue, and previous discussions in regards to sharing Marcia between Mount Rushmore NMEM and the I&M Program.

Followup

Supernaugh sent an email to Gary Vequist on 5/19/2004. On 5/21/2004 Licht received an email from Steve Cinnamon whereby he said Vequist decided to keep the 75:25 split of Licht's duties until the Northern Great Plains Network was fully funded.

Licht discussed the Forest Service office space with Jack Butler on 5/24/2004. Butler said he would contact people within the Forest Service for existing agreements and examples.

Licht sent an improved Excel file to the Board on 5/21/2004.

Licht sent an email to Gerard Baker on 5/20/2004.

Drafted by: Dan Licht

Drafted on: 5/21/2004

Finalized by: Dan Licht

Finalized on: 5/31/2004